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25 March 1958

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AD-HOC SUB-COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION PROCESSING

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD

1. This is the Third Annual Report of the IAC ad hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing. It is submitted to the IAC about two months ahead of schedule because of concurrent action taken by the Chairman, in consultation with committee members, proposing that the Director of Central Intelligence issue a DCID creating a standing subcommittee of the IAC to be known as the Committee on Documentation (see IAC-D-95/7). It is intended that the proposed Committee on Documentation supersede the present ad hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing (AHIP).

CHAIRMANSHIP

2. The chairmanship of AHIP changed in September 1957, and was announced by Mr. Dulles to the IAC on 17 September (IAC-M-307, item 4 a). The present chairman was thus privileged to succeed Colonel Jean W. Moreau, who had ably guided the work of the committee since its inception in May, 1955.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

3. During the period reported on, AHIP has continued to be active. The committee itself met 13 times, and its working groups held a total

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of 44 meetings. The problems and accomplishments of these working

groups are dealt with fully in their individual reports and minutes,

and in the minutes of the parent committee. These activities have been

summarized in Enclosure "A", and will not be further commented on in

this report.

BRIEFINGS

4. The Committee was assisted in its efforts to keep abreast of

developments in its fields of interest and responsibility by a number of

very useful presentations and briefings (see Enclosure "B" for list of

principal briefings).

IAC ACTION

5. During the past year, the single most important action taken

by the IAC in the field of documentation was its approval on 8 October

of a "Policy Statement on Reproduction of Intelligence Originated in

Another IAC Agency" (IAC-D-95/5). In turn, AHIP adopted and issued on

12 December instructions designed to implement this policy (AHIP-D-3/2).

In these measures the intelligence community took a major step making

possible prompt access to a large body of information by authorized

researchers and operating officials wherever located and whenever

needed.

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PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

6. The problem of acquiring and effectively utilizing intelligence
information is real and it is major. It is part and parcel of the over-
all information problem facing all important elements of our national
life. The Academic Community and Industry share with the Government
almost frenzied concern about how to assure prompt and ready access
to information by those who need to know.

7. Many organizations are working on this problem. Studies,
some financed by the big foundations, are under way and increasing in
number. Broad approaches have been proposed by professional groups.
Your chairman and various members of the committee have had increasing
demands made upon their time to attend meetings and review plans.
The recent meeting held by the American Documentation Institute to
consider a plan for establishing national centers for the coordination
of scientific information, and the meetings held by the Joint Committee
on Slavic Studies (of the American Council of Learned Societies and
the Social Science Research Council) are but examples. In government,
the National Science Foundation, the Office of Technical Services of
the Department of Commerce, and the Library of Congress are among
those agencies which are actively trying to cope with aspects of the
problem.

8. Within the intelligence community, more and more time and
money is being spent to arrive at improved means for handling information.

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This concern is in part reflected in the summary of projects which various member agencies of the IAC are actively pursuing with private companies which design data processing equipment (see Enclosure "C"). The fact that it was possible to prepare such a summary represents some gain in the coordination of these activities within the intelligence community. Another piece of favorable evidence is the fact that the chairman of AHIP was invited by the Army to sit on the Army Board reviewing the progress of its contractor -⎕   25X1

9. Encouraging as this is, more is required if indeed there is to be <u>coordination in the development of compatible information processing</u> <u>systems within the intelligence community.</u> The problem will always be with us - it is one on which agencies will spend increasing sums, already large, in efforts to arrive at solutions. Pursued independently, solutions arrived at by one agency unnecessarily risk being of little or no help to others, and conceivably might even create new problems. Thus steps are required to strengthen the <u>community approach to information</u> <u>problems of its individual members.</u>

10. Two things stand out as basic:

    <u>a.</u> The subcommittee needs assurances that it will be made cognizant of arrangements concluded between various elements of the community and contractors for the design of data processing systems.

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b. Criteria need to be developed which, on application, would enable your subcommittee to conclude that one information system was compatible with or superior to another.

11. It is with these and related problems which your subcommittee or a successor committee must come to grips in the year ahead.

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Paul A. Borel
Chairman

Enclosures
"A" - Summary of Activities of Working Groups
"B" - List of Principal Briefings
"C" - Status of IAC Member Agency Projects